An "Obsession" Put On Hold

Movie screening postponed by administration because of "poor planning"
by Nathan Leckband

"I hope Bush dies in flames," said a young girl on Arab television, "and I want to go to Ariel Sharon and kill him with a gun." Another, "I think Bush is a pig and I hope he dies. Thank you." Clips like these are shown throughout "Obsession," a movie described by its producers as, "The new documentary about Radical Islam war against the West."

The Concordia University College Republicans had planned to screen "Obsession" at Concordia on December 5. Instead, Concordia administration decided to put the screening on hold.

According to Associate Vice President for Student Life Jason Rahn, the screening was put on hold due to, "concerns from members of the campus community regarding film content," and that early discussions, "focused primarily on issues of student safety."

Concerns from outside the campus community was expressed November 26, when Lori Saroya, a self-described future lawyer and political activist, sent an e-mail to several administrators, Student Body President Heiliger and informed Heiliger that the screening of "Obsession" would be postponed so that the event could be more thoroughly planned.

"It's unfortunate," Heiliger said, "That an e-mail from an individual outside the Concordia community was given more weight than Concordia students."

Not only did Heiliger and Griepentrog say the e-mail from Lori Saroya had more influence than it should have, they also contested the accuracy of the information in Saroya's original e-mail.

"I think their decision was made very quickly and based on what I know to be false information," said Griepentrog. "I would have liked them to let the students of the university decide whether or not this movie would be screened."

The "false information" that Griepentrog is referring to is Saroya's claim that "Obsession," "does not differentiate between radical Muslims and mainstream Muslims." The documentary is depicting radical Islam. "Obsession's" Web site also describes Islam as a "peaceful faith," that is being threatened by radical Islam. In another e-mail, Saroya amended her claim by saying that in the 92 second disclaimer at the beginning of the film, the differentiation between radical Islam and mainstream Muslims was sarcastic in nature.

Regardless, the administration remained firm in their decision to postpone the screening. A decision that Saroya, "applauded," in an e-mail to The Sword.

Maryllyn Mohnen, President of the Concordia College Progressives, was also disappointed with the administration's decision to postpone the screening of "Obsession." Avoiding confrontation rather than dealing with each other and sharing opinions in footloose and momentary," she said. "I think that when you show a controversial film you need to have an open forum. They [the College Republicans] were more than willing to have an open discussion about it."

While Mohnen has not seen Obsession, she supports the College Republicans screening of the film. She said she had faith that all viewpoints would be heard at the planned forum following the film.

"I didn't mean to cause such a ruckus with this event and I'm sorry that the administrators have spent so much time on it," said Griepentrog. "But I think it's important to allow the students of this university to objectively view this film." Now, Griepentrog and the College Republicans are planning to have the screening of Obsession in a new way when classes resume. This time, the screening will also be sponsored by UMHA, College Progressives, and several other groups.

Revamping Campus Housing

New apartments will replace old dorms, white houses.
by Elain Beneke

In an L-shaped movement the new building will curve around the north east-side of Concordia's campus. It will be raised four stories and composed of collegiate gothic architecture. Trees, street lamps, and a gazebo will flow out over the newly formed courtyard. Fresh and will be held, and new paths will be cemented.

Inside students will find fully furnished apartments complete with a kitchen, a dining room table and a shared living area. There will be no more than two people to a bedroom. Also, there will be no sharing rooms in this structure.

What is it? Is it Concordia's plan for new campus apartments?
According to the Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI), which is taken every 3 years, the Concordia Student body is unsatisfied with current living conditions. "When I was a freshman there were four to a room in Luther," said President Robert Hoist. "70 percent of the students that come to Concordia [today] did not share a room."

Sharing rooms is not the only problem. The SSI shows that students in 2006 are less satisfied with comfort, space, lighting and heat than students in 2002. Also, other private colleges in the area reported higher satisfaction in all of these areas.

"We have some significant different maintenance that needs to be addressed," said Jason Rahn in a December 6th question-and-answer session with OSU students. "Many of these halls were built in the fifties." Rahn is the Associate Vice President for Student Life at Concordia. Also in attendance at the meeting was head architect Richard Marietta. Marietta works for Design Collective which was stationed in Baltimore.

The company hired to oversee the project in Captain Development stationed in Alabama. Kraus-Anderson, which is a local contractor stationed here in the Twin Cities, has been hired for the projects construction. Kraus-Anderson is also currently working on the Chapel extension on campus and has built the last three Concordia structures.

Marietta explained that the housing will be comprised of 4 room and 2 room apartments. The apartments will be about 1000 square feet which is a generous size relative to any of the current rooms available at Concordia. There will about 1000 beds in the complex. They will be fully furnished and come complete with appliances. The two bedroom and two bath apartments would be a kind of premium apartment for RAs and those who wanted to pay more.

The other amenities that the plan includes are a lounge/theatre area, laundry area, fitness center, elevators, a conference room, and possibly a convenience store. This would be furnished with about 130 parking spaces. This is still under review. It would significantly add to the financial requirements which are already estimated at $17 million according to Dahn.

Rahn said that the work for the apartments should be very similar to what student pay now in the other dormitories. "We will not raise tuition because of housing," said Hoist. "That would not be happy," said Hoist.

According to Rahn, solarsel, the University will attempt to get students to sign 12 month leases and live on campus year round.

In order to support the structure the Concordial, Minnesota, and Walther dormitories would have to be removed. Also, the two white houses in the same area will be torn down. Currently the white houses are rented out to Concordia students. They are considered to be "off-campus," but technically being on Concordia's property. Kendal Brual, a current resident of one of the houses commented, "Oh, to be honest, I'm hoping that the new housing project will get delayed. I love living on campus in our house. we get the best of both worlds."

Concordia is planning on offering the students living in the three dorms and two houses housing in the Concordia owned apartments on the south side of Marshall Avenue. More students can also be put in the Luther and Wollauer dormitories.

The project is tentatively being scheduled for this May after graduation. It will take approximately 14 months to complete. It will have to first be approved by a Board of Regents in February. According to President Hoist, APARTMENT continued on page 3
Hmong Scholar Comes To CU To Jump Start Courses

"What we have here has a lot of prospect" by Amy Wolter

The Hmong Studies minor that was approved last spring is now off to a good start as of October 17. Concordia not only approved the program, but agreed to bring in an expert in the field to give students the best education possible on the topic of Hmong Studies. The two courses being held this fall, and several others being offered next spring are under the leadership of a man who is considered by many the premiere Hmong scholar and researcher in the world according to the website for the Center for Hmong Studies.

Dr. Gary Yia Lee is the Scholar-in-Residence for Concordia's new Hmong Studies minor that began this year. He is teaching several new courses this school year for the new program. A resident of Australia for many years, Lee is on leave from his position of bilingual welfare service coordinator in Sydney.

"I'm doing this as a hobby really," he said when asked about his new position. "I did teach before at a University, I've never taught anything about the Hmong but I've always been researching the Hmong and because of that I feel (I) have...I should have some contributions."

Dr. Lee was educated in Australia, receiving a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences Department, the proposal of the Hmong Studies minor through the process of its getting approved to begin this fall. Dr. Lee had also always taken an interest in the Center for Hmong Studies, and was happy to help when the program got approval from the Board of Regents.

"I wanted to see what I could do to help for the courses." Lee said. "I'm very happy that the program started at Concordia he (sic) a very small university. There is more time to focus on the center. It has its advantages. What we have here is very unique and has a lot of prospect. My hope is to develop the center, make it grow bigger, and to reach out to other universities in North America and countries. It would be good not just for the school but for the center."

This semester Dr. Lee is teaching two courses: HMG 101- Introduction to Hmong Studies, and HMG 201- Hmong Culture and Society. Dr. Gary Yia Lee in his office. (Photo by Amy Wolter)

New Timesheet Guidelines

In Effect Rules for submitting hours stricter than before.

by Amy Wolter and Dean Erikson

When a student is hired for a campus job, they hold a responsibility not only to their position at Concordia, but also to keep track of the hours they work. The positions are posted on Bear Path, the electronic "time clock," and it is here that the student enters and views the hours that they work in order to get paid. At the end of every two-week pay period the workers are to electronically submit their timecards to their supervisors via Bear Path.

Recently there have been some changes in the guidelines for timesheets. In the past, there wasn't a clear deadline as to when they had to be submitted. This made it difficult for the supervisors when they had to approve the timesheets because they were coming in late. It also slowed down the process for Bryan Marek, Payroll Manager for Concordia. "The majority of student employees do enter their hours correctly and on time, but there are those that don't."

The decision was made to make the deadline for timesheet submission for Saturday by midnight. Mary Arnold, Director of Human Resources, was the person responsible in making these changes to keep the payroll system running smoothly. The deadline for submission is at the top of the timesheet (on BearPath). Once the deadline has passed it is too late to submit. The hours have to be re-entered on the next timesheet under "hours from previous pay period." Repeated late submission could result in termination from the position.

The goal was to encourage students to enter the hours worked every day, and not wait until the last minute. This helps them to stay on top of their hours, and to submit and get paid on schedule. Marek did mention that the new system has been running more smoothly since the change has been made. No one has been terminated to date. Arnold and Marek are available and more than happy to help anyone who has questions or problems with the system. "If anyone has a problem come say something right away, don't wait two weeks," said Arnold. The students can also access the Human Resources website at http://concordia.edu/hr to answer any questions they may have.

Next Fall's Schedule Changes

More communication required to coordinate classes. by Alyssa Hemmingsway

New schedule changes are being put into effect starting in the fall of 2007 in order to try to minimize scheduling conflicts. Instructors need to follow different protocols in order to accommodate the new schedule. There are six protocols that explain how to set up class schedules.

One specification is that classes are encouraged to only be 50 minutes and offered throughout the week instead of having longer class periods that meet less during the week. Courses following the 50 minute guidelines will make classes more efficient for some professors. Thomas Trapp of the theology department, says his courses will work better when meeting for 50 minutes than with the two-hour blocks.

Another change is that single section major courses, which are major courses that are only offered at one time, are not to be offered between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., or these are the primary hours for athletics, music, theater, and other extra-curricular activities.

Many students like the idea of not having single section major courses between 3:00 and 6:00. Tammy Pearson, a sophomore theatre major says the new schedule will be more accommodating because theatre rehearsals are held in the afternoons. Tim Wallner, a Residential Assistant in Walker says that there seems to be widespread approval of not having single section major courses in that time slot.

The proposed schedule for the 2007/2008 school year has the chapel hour from 11:00-11:30. Andrew Jones, Campus Ministry Associate, says chapel at 11:00 is a more opportune time for students to come.

Dr. Amy Gort, chair of the biology department, says the science department will benefit from the later chapel time because they have later labs in the morning. Right now, they can only have two hour labs in the morning.

Another change the proposed schedule entails is the chapel slot on Wednesdays, which is normally set aside for meetings, is no longer blocked off. Meetings will instead be held Friday afternoons. The convocation time will be changed from its current slot at 10:10 to 12:00 on Wednesdays.

Robert Krueger, chair of the math department, is happy with the new schedule changes. "I will be able to work closely with the Science Departments to coordinate math courses which will complement science courses and avoid conflicts with science labs." But other professors fear more conflicts will occur with the new schedule changes.

"We're moving one major music ensembles and theatre rehearsals into the 3-6 time block. This will create some overloads as well as those that didn't exist in the previous schedule," says David Mentice, chair of the fine arts department. The new schedule demands more interdisciplinary and intercollege coordination of scheduling."
said the President in an interview on "I wish I was younger so that I could forward to," said Rahn. Rahn said out their college careers. "We are • responsibility."

The President continued from page 1

APARTMENT continued from page 1

campus.
apartments would have been available a junior at Concordia said, "If these were available."

Whatever happens, it seems that Concordia and its students are in for some big changes.

Front image on Landon's postcard:

Art Student Finds His Way With Clay
Senior artist works on his upcoming Exhibition.
by Hannah Devow

Another young artist joins the line-up of Senior Exhibitions this January, Landon Anderson came to Concordia as a PSEO student (post-secondary education option— receiving college credits while in high school) in the year 2004. Anderson worked by a friend named Renato Often, also a junior at Concordia said, "If these apartments would have been available when I was a freshmen or sophomore I may have considered living on campus."

Vice President of Operations Dr. Eric LaMote said that competitors and houses all over the country are building new facilities and they aren't having problems filling them. If the Board of Regions does not approve the project in February Concordia will have to resort to other plans, President Holst said. "The deferred maintenance is still significant, and would come to almost two million dollars."

"What ever happens, it seems that Concordia and its students are in for some big changes."
Planning to quit smoking after college? The odds are against you.

Research shows most students who say they'll quit smoking right after college...can't. For help, call (888) 354-PLAN.
Concordia Tree Foundation Is Here To Help

Edwardo: Wow, how can I get involved with promoting the goodness of trees?
Treeman: There is a group on campus called the Concordia Tree Foundation. They are here to promote and oversee the trees of Concordia. This year their mission is to plant a tree on campus on Arbor Day this coming spring. This is where you come in. We are raising money to buy a tree. and if everyone gave a dollar, it would be like the entire school planted the one for this community.

Members of the Concordia Tree Foundation will be in the tunnel early next semester. Please stop by to show your support and get involved with a project that will benefit everyone.

It's Worth More Than Extra Credit

Did you know that one of the main reasons why students attend a guest lecture, a.k.a. a sigma pi, or a convocation, etc... is because they are receiving extra credit in another class? Some times they have to write a one page review or sometimes they don't have to do anything except show up. This form of extra credit for attendance is found in almost every department at Concordia.

This happens not only in your basic general ed. course, but also in third and fourth year core major classes. Tell the student about a club event or a guest speaker that bugs me: The worship of the grade, with a disregard for the knowledge that should be gained in the class or in attendance at the lecture which should be held in a loftier position than that grade. It makes me sick.

Last year when I was at Hamline, the chemistry department had a guest speaker every week, not once a month like CIP, and every major and minor was there in attendance every week, not because they got extra credit, not because it was a class in and of itself, but because it was expected as majors and minors with future careers that they should attend because it would further extend and broaden their education and not a single one complained or asked for extra credit.

This systemic drive to short cut class attendance not only discredits the guest speaker, but because they haven't learned the material that is standard to this degree found at any university including Concordia; knowledge that is needed for your vocation.

There is also two ways to look at passing a class with an acceptable grade which is linked to GPA and scholarships, but what helps you more after Concordia?
The passing grade you received because you worked the system, or the knowledge that you understand and own that you will be expected to use in your career, which happens to bring a passing grade along with it.

The main point of higher education is EDUCATION. You pay all this money to attend class and receive a degree which is proof of learning something. So take the time and actually learn what you are expected to know by the rest of the world, not your just professor.

In the end you shouldn't need extra credit because you learned the material not to get a grade, but because you need it for your career. That is why you came to college, right?

To get education that supports a career. Students should attend guest lectures not because there is extra credit for it, but because the lecture supports your education that supports a career and your vocation.

If it didn't, what would be the point of having the guest speaker come to a university in the first place?
Off-Seasons, Not So Off Afterall

College Athletics: A Year Round Commitment.
by Lance Meyer

The Concordia volleyball team sits in the middle of the court and stretches before beginning practice. You might get excited as you think of another volleyball season where the Golden Bears go for another Conference Championship, but snap, and think again. This is not August or September, but rather it is the middle of January and the team is getting ready to go through an off season practice. There are no games or championships to be won in the near future, but the players still hold the same intensity that they would if there were. According to most athletic philosophies, working out in the off-season is something that has proven to be a necessity for players who want to compete on the Division II level. It isn’t always easy commitment.

It doesn’t matter if an athlete is working to hold a starting role, or just trying to earn a spot on the team, it has become commonplace and almost mandatory to work hard in the off-season.

"Whether or not a player put in the time in the off-season is huge once the season comes around," says head volleyball coach Brady Starkey.

As finals week springs upon us, the halls and the classrooms chime in unison. Damien Dukek, a junior baseball player, gets ready for his upcoming season in the gym. "Getting ready to go through an off season is something that has grown to be an important time for many athletes," says Starkey.

Junior guard dribbles 20 credits and basketball.
by Lance Meyer

It doesn’t matter if an athlete is working to hold a starting role, or just trying to earn a spot on the team, it has become commonplace and almost mandatory to work hard in the off-season. There are a lot of obvious reasons to hit the weight room and practice technique in the off-season, but it isn’t always as easy as it sounds.

"We have established a winning tradition which makes it easier to put in the time in between seasons, but that isn’t the case for every program," Starkey said. "The guys who get after it in the off-season are usually the ones you see on the field when the season comes around."

The volleyball team works hard in the off-season as do other sports, and the emphasis of this hard work shows when the season comes around. There are a lot of obvious reasons to hit the weight room and practice technique in the off-season, but it isn’t always as easy as it sounds.

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Building On Tradition

Women's Basketball sets a goal to live up to high standards.

by Stephen Bacher

Tradition. It's a word that many colleges live and play by. Webster describes tradition as an inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior. What does this have to do with the women's basketball team, well since Paul Wester has taken over the Bears have had five consecutive 20-win seasons, four consecutive trips to the NCAA tournament, two NSIC championships, and one Sweet Sixteen appearance. If that isn't a tradition to build on Webster's Dictionary may have to redefine the word.

The Bears have a young team a lot like many of the teams this year at CU. The one thing that they have, though, is more experience than those other teams. They have no seniors on the team, but have many returnees who saw a lot of playing time last year.

The loss of Nikki Ostfeldt and Ashley Smith will have some immediate effect on the team especially since they were the leading scores last year. The team will need to find someone who can replace Nakia as someone who can get to the basket and to the line.

The sophomores class is also full of potential big players. Candace Olds has had a great impact last year as the team's "slapper dandy." She is a good post player and needs to show that her off-season has made her a better force on the glass. Jessica Tewes also needs to improve on the glass but is good with dribble penetration. Sophomore transfer Abby Nielsen will need to get back in the swing of things after missing last year, she can be a good wing woman but will need to improve down low.

Other members of the freshmen class along with Ray are Kali Olds (Sister), Jamie Jones, and Ashley Gramenz. Kali is Minnesota's all time 3 point scorers but will need make the long shot. She also has a great 3-point shot to along with her defensive pressure. Gramenz will look to get back to physical form after a long layoff.

The Bears returning some key players and will contend for the conference championship. Sophomore Colby Reinlind checked out the exhibition match against Iowa and said that he was impressed with the team.

I have seen some of the practices and believe the Bears will compete for the conference championship. I think that if the team can play well together and find consistent people to get to the basket and hit free throws, the team will win the conference championship. I don't see the streak of 5 consecutive 20 game win seasons coming to a stop, along with another trip to the NCAA tournament.

Men's Basketball: New Coach, New Philosophy

Men's basketball shifts focus to teamwork.

by Stephen Batcher

Pass, Shoot, Score- Pass, Shoot, Score. The Bears have a young team a lot like many of the teams this year at CU. The one thing that they have, though, is more experience than those other teams. They have no seniors on the team, but have many returnees who saw a lot of playing time last year.

When speaking with Coach Kelly Boe, he insured that the team will need to find someone who can replace Nakia as someone who can get to the basket and to the line.

Freshman Jessie Ray is said to have the skill and fluidity to get to the basket, but she will need to make the jump from high school to Division II, along with improving her outside game. Whitney Smelans and Amanda Bechle will have to replace the role that Smith had. Bechle has shown the abilities to be important in the post. Smelans also has shown her abilities at center but needs to get stronger on offensive glass, her defensive skills are outstanding and she is a major shot blocker.

Katie LaVadette is the Bears player to watch according to the NSIC preseason report. She has great vision on the court and rarely turns over the ball. Fellow junior Kelly Lund and Lindsey Palmer should also make a huge dent in the starting line-up and team make-up.

Land is a transfer from the University of Northern Iowa, a Division I school. She also can get to the basket and the foul line. She is not as good as a three-point threat as Palmer, but can hit the occasional outside shot. Palmer, along with teammate Megan Kirchenwettn can run from beyond the three point line.

The sophomores class is also full of potential big players. Candace Olds had a great impact last year as the team's "slapper dandy." She is a good post player and needs to show that her off-season has made her a better force on the glass. Jessica Tewes also needs to improve on the glass but is good with dribble penetration. Sophomore transfer Abby Nielsen will need to get back in the swing of things after missing last year, she can be a good wing woman but will need to improve down low.

Other members of the freshmen class along with Ray are Kali Olds (Sister), Jamie Jones, and Ashley Gramenz. Kali is Minnesota's all time 3 point scorers but will need make the long shot. She also has a great 3-point shot to along with her defensive pressure. Gramenz will look to get back to physical form after a long layoff.

Overall the Bears returning some key players and will contend for the conference championship. Sophomore Colby Reinlind checked out the exhibition match against Iowa and said that he was impressed with the team.

I have seen some of the practices and believe the Bears will compete for the conference championship. I think that if the team can play well together and find consistent people to get to the basket and hit free throws, the team will win the conference championship. I don't see the streak of 5 consecutive 20 game win seasons coming to a stop, along with another trip to the NCAA tournament.